



The NC Medical Examiner System: The BSOM Regional Medical Examiner Office Perspective

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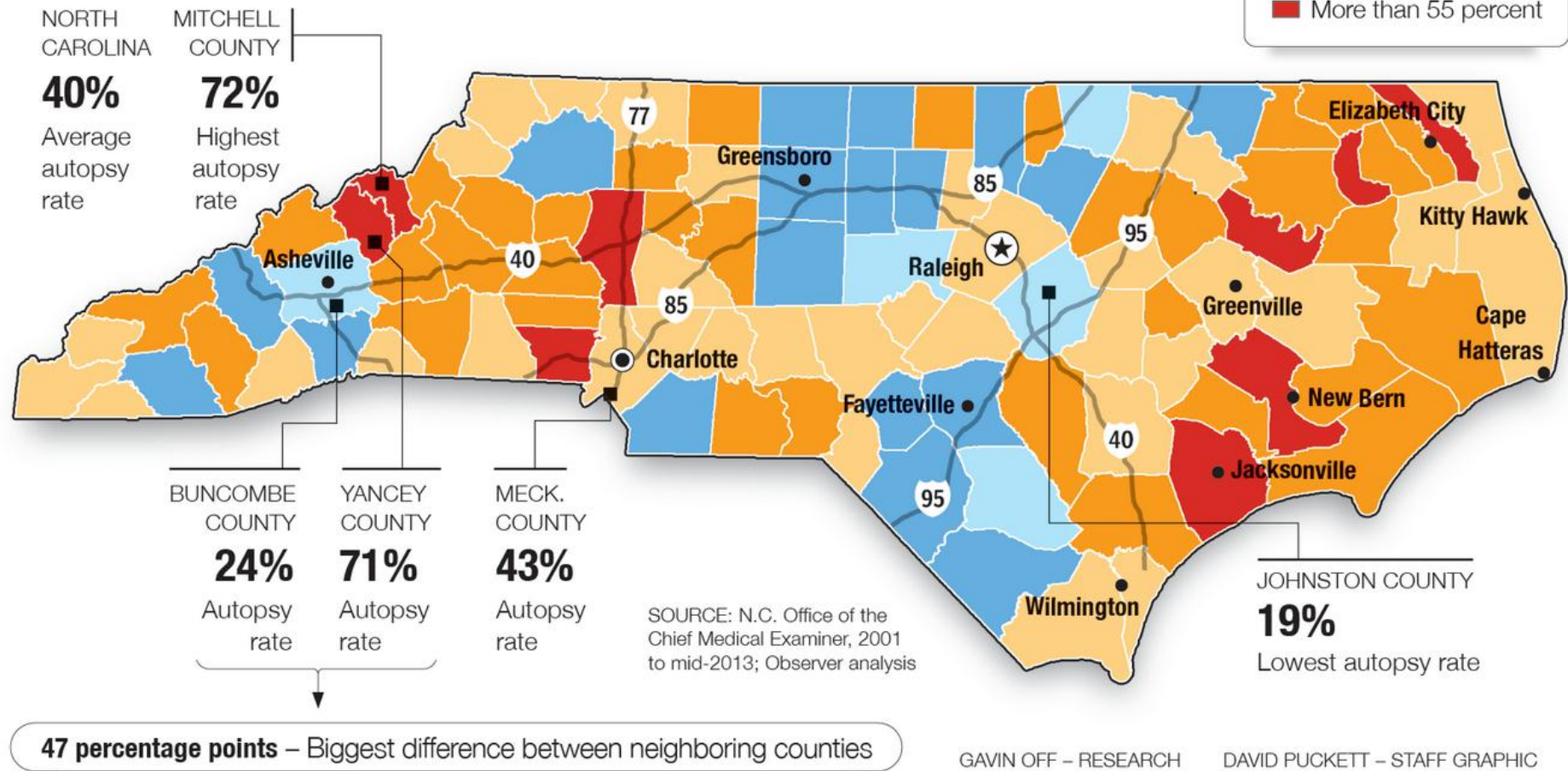
Shoddy examinations leave families in pain

Untrained medical examiners fail relatives, imperil justice

By **Ames Alexander**, **Gavin Off**, **Fred Clasen-Kelly** and **Elizabeth Leland**

Inconsistent autopsy rates

Autopsies are the most accurate method for determining the cause of death. Yet, the percentage of bodies autopsied in medical examiner cases varies wildly in North Carolina – from 19 percent in Johnston County to 72 percent in Mitchell County.



What do we (North Carolina) need?

- Standardized, quality practices
- An educated, qualified and adequate medical examiner, investigator, and forensic pathologist work force
- Stable funding and support systems to make it all possible
- Ongoing quality assurance to ensure that best practices are followed

BSOM Regional Medical Examiner Office

- Three board certified forensic pathologists, certified death investigators, pathology assistants, student interns and residents, clerical and support staff
- Pathologists are faculty in an academic medical center and are located in the department
- Autopsy facility located in the hospital
- Cardiovascular, neuropathology, image analysis, toxicology and shaken baby, forensic anthropology, and histopathology expertise within the department
- Institutional infrastructure for Graduate Medical Education (but limited to no access to funds for new programs)

The BSOM ME Office is involved in

- Determining cause of death
- Protecting the public health
- Responding to terrorism and mass disaster
- Providing quality control for clinical medicine
- Proving testimony in court cases
- Interacting with law enforcement
- Educating the community, law enforcement, investigators, medical examiners, **resident physicians**
- Serving on professional and federal boards and committees that establish standards and policies

One Year Later: Family of Farmville Hustle Mart victims speak out

Posted: Apr 01, 2012 10:59 PM EDT

By Alex Freedman, Weekend Anchor - [email](#)

By WNCT STAFF - [email](#)

FARMVILLE, N.C. - It's been one year since three men were found shot, execution style in a Farmville convenience store and the family is now speaking out.


It was back on April 1st 2012 that deputies say Antwan Anthony, Xavier Shamble and Willie Whitehead robbed the store and killed 26-year-old Nabil or "Sam" Al'Mogannahi, 24-year-old Gaber Alawi, also known as "David," and 16-year-old Mokbell or "Sam" Almujaani.

Investigators called it a senseless act which led to five other arrests,



Victim's cousin, Tony Muhsem, speaks out to 9 On Your Side.





DEATH INVESTIGATION

Fitting the Pieces of the Puzzle

December 10, 2014
Monroe
Conference Center
Greenville, NC

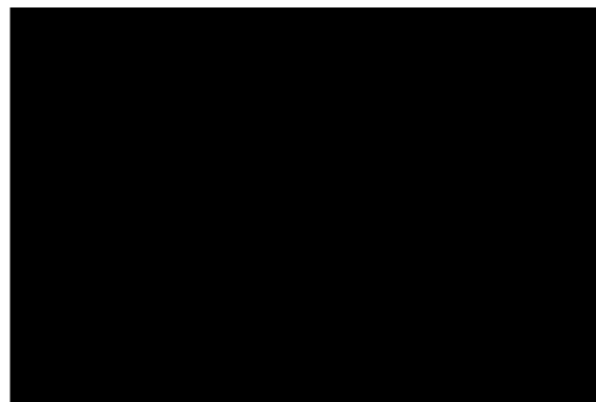
Presented by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Forensic Division and the Office of Continuing Medical Education at Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, in association with Eastern AHEC.

PilotOnline.com

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Tornado kills 11 people across Bertie County, N.C.



VIDEO: Bertie County residents recall tornado.
(Brian Clark | The Virginian-Pilot)

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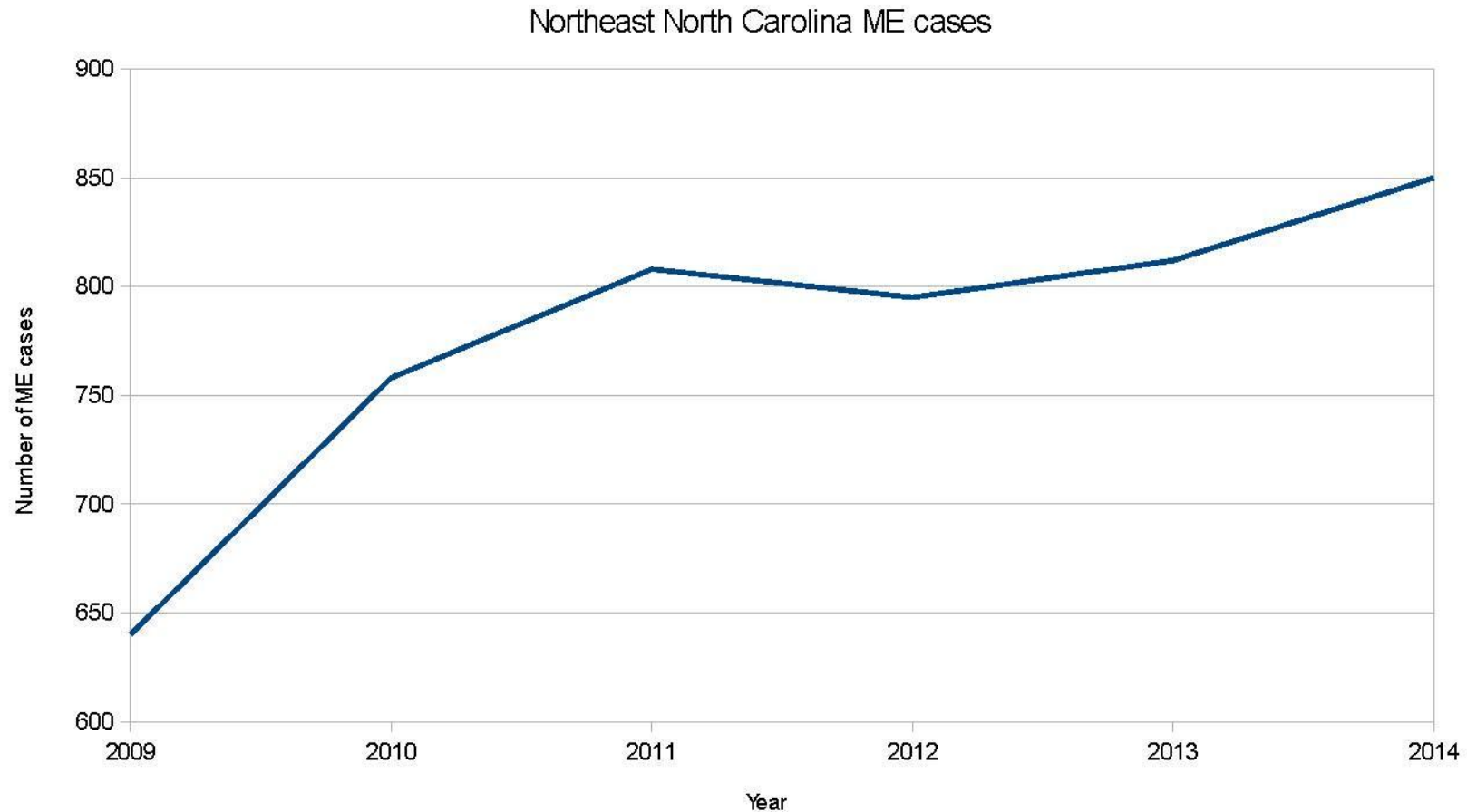
By [Jeff Hampton](#)
[Lauren King](#)
The Virginian-Pilot
© April 18, 2011

BERTIE COUNTY, N.C.

The weather service says it's impossible to determine exactly how many tornadoes were spawned by Saturday's storm, but more than 60 were reported in North Carolina, leaving the state with 21 confirmed deaths.

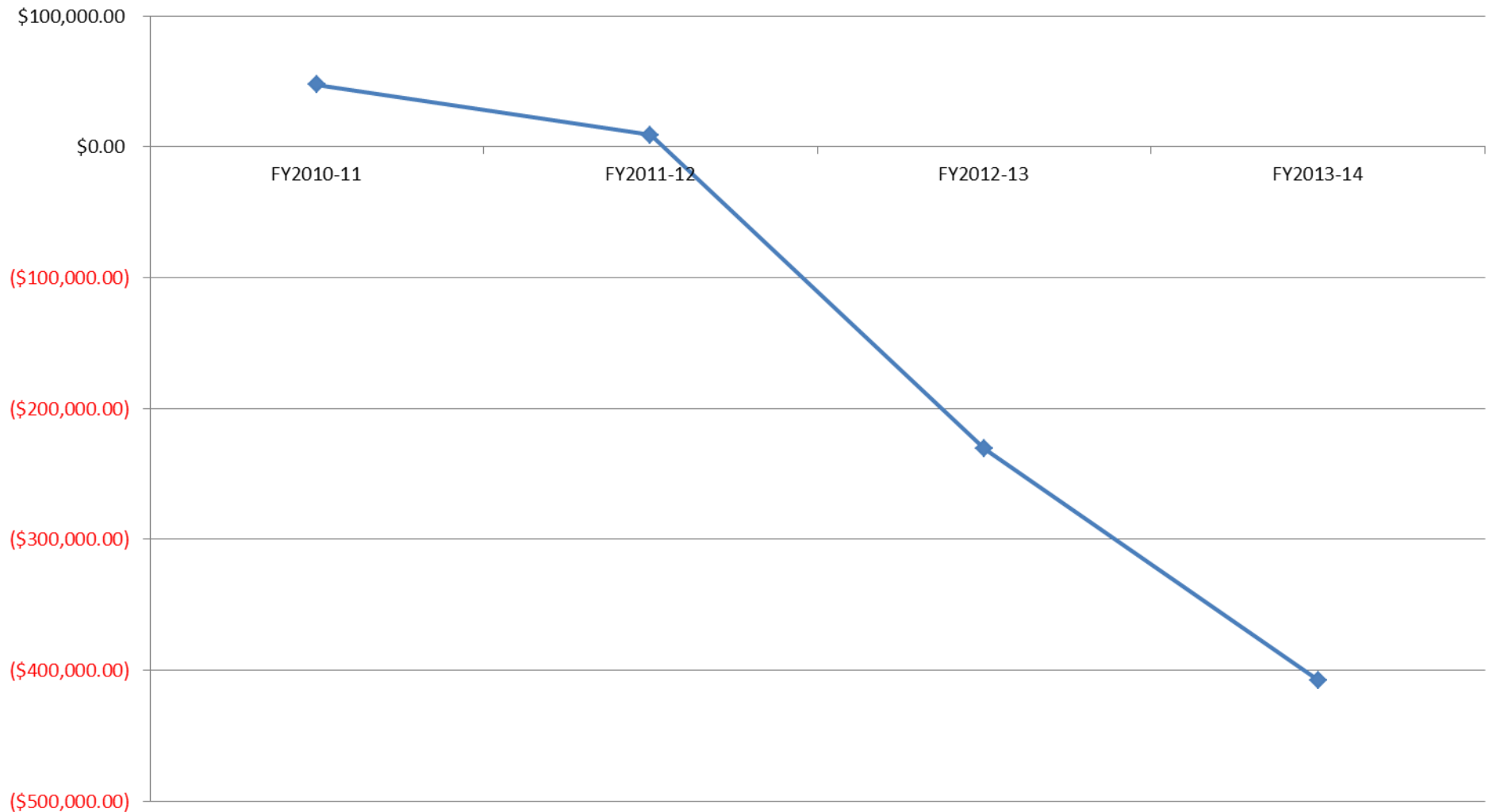
One killed four people in southeastern Bladen County, then hopscotched more than 150 miles, eventually moving into Bertie County, on the Chowan River about 25 miles south of the Virginia line.

NE NC ME Autopsies and Inspections



NET GAIN/LOSS

BSOM FORENSIC PATHOLOGY



BSOM ME Office Challenges

- Aging and inadequate physical plant
- Lack of stable funding
- Lack of funds to support fellowship program to address anticipated workforce issues
- Problematic access to imaging equipment and lack of capital dollars or space for installation
- Impending retirements and anticipated recruitment challenges
- A medical school that is experiencing financial difficulties

What we need

- Facility expansion and upgrade
- Support for educational programs for medical examiners and investigators
- Fellowship program to ensure continued forensic pathologist supply
- Stable funding source that covers expenses

2014 DHHS Study Group Draft Recommendations

- Develop a funding strategy for additional regional autopsy centers and infrastructure in 3 existing regional autopsy centers
- Seek OCME national accreditation once prerequisites are met.
- Seek accreditation of regional autopsy centers once prerequisites are met.
- Fully support the 3 existing regional autopsy centers by reimbursing them for their actual current costs to perform autopsies.
- Support additional forensic pathology fellowship positions (approximately \$250,000 recurring annually) at both WFU and ECU